REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-19 have been rejected. Claims 20-22 have been restricted. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-19 will remain in the application. If the Examiner removes the restriction to Claims 20-22, in view of the amendments to the claims, they too will be pending. Applicants maintain the patentability of claims 1 - 22.

Claims 20-22 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, pursuant to Applicant's telephonic provisional election of claims 1-19 on February 14, 2001, with traverse. The Examiner has required restriction between two inventions: Group I, including Claims 1-19, drawn to a product (*i.e.*, an electrical connector) and Group II, including Claims 20-22, drawn to a method of use.

Claim 20, from which claims 21 and 22 depend, of Group II has been amended. Group II, as amended, does not claim an invention distinct from the invention claimed by Group I. Group II, as represented by amended Claim 20, is drawn to a process of *providing an electrical connector* and using the electrical connector. Thus, the process for using the product cannot be practiced with another materially different product and the product cannot be used in a materially different process. Therefore, Group I and Group II are not distinct inventions and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's restriction requirement and request examination of claims 20-22.

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,102,708) in view of Cohn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,915,639). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-19 are allowable over the cited reference for the reasons set forth below.

The present invention, as represented by independent Claim 1, includes an electrical connector adapted to receive a mating connector and a temperature sensor on the electrical connector *for detecting a temperature of the mating connector*. Similarly, independent Claim 9 recites an

electrical connector having a temperature sensor *to detect the temperature of an electronic card* and independent Claim 16 recites an electrical connector and a temperature sensor on the electrical connector *for detecting a temperature of a mating connector*.

Kimura discloses an electrical connector but does not disclose a temperature sensor. Cohn discloses an outlet and a temperature sensor thermally bonded in and to the outlet. Importantly, the temperature sensor is *bonded to the outlet*, rather than being bonded to the mating connector (*i.e.*, the device being plugged into the outlet). Thus, Cohn senses the temperature of the outlet, not the mating connector. Accordingly, neither Kimura nor Cohn discloses a temperature sensor on an electrical connector *for detecting a temperature of a mating connector*, as required by Claims 1 and 16. Analogously, neither Kimura nor Cohn discloses a temperature sensor on an electrical connector *for detecting a temperature of a electronic card*, as required by Claim 9.

Moreover, neither Kimura nor Cohn suggest a temperature sensor on the electrical connector *for detecting a temperature of a mating connector*, as required by Claim 1. Kimura does not suggest any temperature sensing. Cohn discloses sensing the temperature of an outlet but does not suggest sensing the temperature of a mating connector, as this is more difficult than sensing the temperature of the outlet. A mating connector (*e.g.*, an electronic card) may be inserted and removed from an electrical connector. This provides a challenge in sensing the temperature of the mating connector. Cohn does not address this challenge and therefore, does not suggest a temperature sensor on the electrical connector *for detecting a temperature of a mating connector*, as required by Claim 1 and 16. Analogously, neither Kimura nor Cohn suggests a temperature sensor on an electrical connector *for detecting a temperature of a electronic card*, as required by Claim 9.

Therefore, the combined references of Kimura and Cohn do not disclose or suggest all of the features of independent Claims 1, 9, or 16, or any depending claims including Claims 2-8, 10-15, and 16-19. Thus, Claims 1-19 are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully

requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of this application. The application as amended is believed to be in a proper form for allowance. Consequently, prompt action on this application is respectfully requested. Further, Applicants request examination of claims 20-25.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 20 has been amended as follows:

20. (Amended) A method of monitoring a temperature of an electronic card in an electrical connector mounted to an electronic device, comprising the steps of:

providing an electrical connector adapted to receive the electronic card;

providing a temperature sensor mounted to the electrical connector;

sensing the temperature of the electronic card; and

transmitting the temperature of the electronic card to the electronic device.

Claims 23-25 have been added as follows:

23. (New) A method of monitoring a temperature of an electronic card in an electrical connector electrically connected to an electronic device, comprising the steps of:

providing an electrical connector adapted to receive the electronic card;

providing a temperature sensor mounted to the electrical connector;

sensing the temperature of the electronic card; and

transmitting the temperature of the electronic card to the electronic device.

24. (New) The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the electronic card communicates with the electronic device through the connector, said transmitting step independent of the communications between the connector and the electronic device.

Election by original presentation > Newly submitted and amended claims

25. (New) The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the connector includes a transition board, said transmitting step occurring through the transition board.